(1506)

Page 1 ~~of~~ AND PAGE 2

Document ~~dated~~ UNDATED

DENIED in TOTO

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

Talking Points for the 40 Committee

1. What has El Mercurio been doing [redacted]

[redacted] El Mercurio has been playing an increasingly effective role in attacking the political and economic policies of the Allende regime, exposing Cuban and Soviet-sponsored subversion, highlighting the illegal and violent procedures being employed by government officials and by far-left revolutionary organizations like the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), and generally harassing and embarrassing the government.

2. [redacted]

[redacted]

3. What has it done in terms of strengthening the political opposition?

El Mercurio has acted as a rallying point for the opposition forces by providing both factual and editorial coverage of the key issues at stake in government efforts to take over private sectors of the economy, to control the University of Chile, and to reduce Congress to a single chamber. It has also provided publicity and moral support for opposition marches and demonstrations, and endorsed the electoral campaigns of opposition candidates in recent by-elections. [redacted]

4. [redacted]

[redacted]

5. Can El Mercurio not put its financial house in order?

El Mercurio's financial problems are based largely on developments which are beyond its control, such as government demands for exhorbitant new back taxes, government restrictions on credit, and a decline in advertising which results from continuing government takeovers of private firms which were formerly its clients.

6. [redacted]

Page (s) 6

DENIED IN TOTO